

REMARKS  
ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
JAMES TREFFINGER

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PRESS CONFERENCE  
1 NEWARK PLAZA  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY  
APRIL 4, 1996

IN MY 15 MONTHS AS ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE, MY EXPERIENCE HAS  
TAUGHT ME THAT OUR BELEAGUERED COUNTY MUST OVERCOME PROBLEMS  
WHICH SOME HAVE CONCLUDED ARE ENDEMIC.

PROBLEMS THAT ARE STRUCTURALLY, BASICALLY IRRESOLVABLE, EVEN  
HOPELESS, SOME SAY. BUT, I DISAGREE.

THE CYNICS AND THOSE WHO WOULD DIVIDE AND RIP DOWN, RATHER THAN  
BUILD UP, CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE DAYLIGHT IN ESSEX COUNTY  
WILL CONTINUE TO DIMINISH AND WILL SOON BE BLOTTED OUT BY  
EVER-INCREASING CRIME, TAXES, JOBLESSNESS AND STRIFE.

SOME SAY THAT WE CAN GROW NO MORE, AND THAT OUR FUTURE WILL NEVER  
RECOVER THE PROSPERITY OF THE PAST. I DISAGREE.

WE MUST USE ALL OF OUR TALENTS AND ENERGIES AND CREATIVITY TO  
MOLD INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS, EVEN WHERE NONE SEEM APPARENT.

WE MUST USE ALL OF OUR TALENTS TO TRANSFORM OUR SOCIAL PROBLEMS  
INTO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLUTION.

AND, WE MUST USE ALL OF OUR ENERGIES TO BRING HOPE AND OPTIMISM BACK INTO OUR VIEW OF THE FUTURE.

WE MUST USE ALL OF OUR ENERGIES TO SAY TO THOSE WHO SEEM TO RELISH DESPAIR AND WHO SEEM TO POSSESS SOME KIND OF SPECIAL INTEREST IN GLOOM, DIVISIVENESS AND CONTROVERSY THAT WE MUST BANISH THE TIRED OLD WAYS WHICH SOLVE NOTHING.

FOR TOO LONG WORDS LIKE "BUSINESS" HAVE BEEN DISMISSED OR EVEN ATTACKED BECAUSE OUR PROBLEMS SEEM SO OVERWHELMING.

FOR TOO LONG WORDS LIKE LABOR HAVE BEEN RELEGATED AS HOPELESS IRRELEVANCIES BECAUSE OUR PROBLEMS SEEM SO OVERWHELMING.

FOR TOO LONG THE SOLUTION OF ECONOMIC GROWTH HAS BEEN IGNORED BY THOSE WHO LOVE ONLY TO CURSE THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY ECONOMIC STAGNATION.

AND, FOR TOO LONG THERE HAS BEEN A FIXATION ON THE DECAY OF OUR ECONOMY (AND ON THE COTTAGE INDUSTRIES ERECTED TO PERPETUATE THAT DECAY), WITH TOO LITTLE ATTENTION PAID TO THE REBUILDING OF OUR ECONOMY.

FOR FAR TOO LONG, POLITICIANS OF BOTH PARTIES HAVE CURSED THE DARKNESS. WE NOW MUST ALL DISAGREE.

WE MUST LIGHT THE FIRES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, THOSE LITTLE CAULDRONS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THOSE LITTLE ENGINES OF JOB CREATION.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO CURSE THE DARKNESS WITHOUT IGNITING SOME HOPE TO OVERCOME IT.

WORDS SUCH AS **BUSINESS** AND **LABOR**, **HOPE** AND **GROWTH** ARE PART OF OUR DAILY LIVES, PART OF OUR DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE, PART OF OUR ESSENCE AS A CIVILIZATION.

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, THESE WORDS MUST BE PART OF A HARD-NOSED, NO-NONSENSE, BUSINESSLIKE APPROACH TO OUR PROBLEMS.

AND YES, WE DO HAVE PROBLEMS IN ESSEX COUNTY. MORE PROBLEMS THAT CAN BE CATALOGUED AND THAT WE ALL KNOW AREN'T EASY TO SOLVE.

BUT, WE HAVE TO START WITH ONE AT A TIME AND TODAY, WE ARE HERE TO FOCUS ON THE ECONOMIC PROBLEM.

AS DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SAID, "THERE CAN BE NO SOCIAL JUSTICE WITHOUT GREATER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY."

IN MY FIFTEEN MONTHS IN THIS JOB, I HAVE COME TO REALIZE THAT THE MAJOR CHALLENGE, INDEED, THE PRECONDITION TO PROGRESS ON ANY FRONT MUST BE TO GET THE ECONOMY IN ESSEX MOVING AGAIN.

OUR PRIMARY CONCERN MUST BE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH. FOR ONLY WITH ECONOMIC GROWTH CAN THERE BE A BASIS FOR SOLVING ALL OF THE OTHER PROBLEMS.

AS JOHN KENNEDY SAID: "A RISING TIDE LIFTS ALL BOATS."

AND, AS RONALD REAGAN SAID: "THE BEST SOCIAL PROGRAM IS CREATING JOBS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR."

I AM THOROUGHLY CONVINCED THAT THERE ARE TWO ESSENTIAL PRECONDITIONS TO RECOVERING PROSPERITY IN THE ESSEX ECONOMY.

ONE IS A NO-FRILLS, BUSINESS-LIKE, CONSERVATIVE APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND TAXES.

UNLESS WE ACHIEVE TAX STABILITY IN ESSEX COUNTY, UNLESS WE STOP THE HEMORRHAGING OF INVESTMENT AND CONSUMER DOLLARS FROM THE ESSEX ECONOMY, UNLESS WE TURN THE COUNTY INTO A BUSINESS-FRIENDLY, LABOR-FRIENDLY, JOB-FRIENDLY ECONOMY, WE WILL NEVER STOP THE DECLINE.

FOR TOO LONG THIS COUNTY HAS LOST A TREASURE IN RATABLES, BUSINESS, JOBS AND PEOPLE.

SO LONG AS THE CRUSHING TAXES IMPOSED ON FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES CONTINUES UNABATED, IT WILL DRIVE FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES OUT OF ESSEX.

ONLY WITH A RETURN TO FISCAL SANITY AND TAX STABILITY WILL WE EVER BE ABLE TO ENCOURAGE BUSINESS AND JOBS TO STAY HERE AND TO MOVE HERE.

ONLY THEN WILL OUR CITIES RETURN TO PROSPERITY AND ONLY THEN WILL OUR WORKERS, WHO PAY THE TAXES, ACHIEVE SECURITY.

ONLY THEN WILL OUR BUSINESSES EMPLOY MORE WORKERS. ONLY THEN CAN THERE BE A REAL RENAISSANCE.

THE OTHER PRECONDITION IS AN AGGRESSIVE AND PROGRESSIVE COMMITMENT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

NOT SOME PIE-IN-THE-SKY FEEL-GOOD PRESCRIPTION FOR UTOPIA BUT, AGAIN, A NO-FRILLS, BUSINESS-LIKE APPROACH TO PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN ECONOMIC GROWTH --- IN STIMULATING PRIVATE ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTION AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT, IN LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR REAL AND MEANINGFUL JOB CREATION.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO BE VIGILANT, AGGRESSIVE, AND UNCOMPROMISINGLY PERSISTENT IN SAYING NO TO HIGHER TAXES.

BUT, WE MUST BE JUST AS VIGILANT, AGGRESSIVE, AND UNWAVERINGLY PERSISTENT IN SAYING YES TO WHAT WE CAN DO, IN A CREATIVE FASHION AS OUR LIMITED TALENTS AND RESOURCES ALLOW, TO STIMULATE PRIVATE CAPITAL FORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

LIMITED GOVERNMENT, IN WHICH I DEVOUTLY BELIEVE, IS PERFECTLY COMPATIBLE WITH STRONG, VIGOROUS GOVERNMENT TO ACHIEVE THE PUBLIC GOOD.

WHAT THIS MEANS IS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE AND REAL PROGRESS, REAL JOBS.

WHAT THIS MEANS IS GROWTH, OPPORTUNITY, JOBS AND HOPE.

I BELIEVE FERVENTLY IN OUR FUTURE. I BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE OF ESSEX, AN ESSEX WHERE BUSINESS GROWS AND PROSPERS, WHERE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL ABOUND, WHERE OUR ENTREPRENEURS ARE EAGER TO INVEST, WHERE OUR WORKERS ARE QUICK TO FIND PRODUCTIVE AND REWARDING JOBS, WHERE OUR SENIOR CITIZENS CAN REMAIN AFTER SPENDING A LIFETIME OF WORK AND SAVING, AND WHERE OUR YOUNG COUPLES STARTING OUT IN LIFE CAN FIND WELL-PAYING JOBS AND AFFORDABLE HOMES WITH AFFORDABLE TAXES IN SAFE COMMUNITIES.

MAYOR JAMES AND I ARE TODAY JOINING TOGETHER IN A COUNTY/CITY PARTNERSHIP FOR PROGRESS, ONE THAT, NO DOUBT, WILL UPLIFT OUR AILING ESSEX ECONOMY AND BRING JOBS AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY TO NEWARK AND THE COUNTY.

TODAY WE ARE COMMITTING TO BUILDING BOTH A JAIL AND A RECREATION STADIUM.

RISING CRIME SADLY REQUIRES US TO EXPAND OUR JAIL CAPACITY BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, THAT FACT SHOULD OBLIGATE US TO CREATE NEW WHOLESOME OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUTH.

SO, TODAY, WE ARE EMBARKING UPON PLANS TO BRING PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL BACK TO NEWARK AND TO ESSEX COUNTY AND WE PLAN TO GIVE BIRTH TO PROFESSIONAL SOCCER HERE AS WELL.

TODAY WE ARE UNVEILING JOINT PLANS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RIVERBANK PARK BASEBALL AND SOCCER COMPLEX, A PLANNED MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR EFFORT WHICH WILL STIMULATE THE LOCAL ECONOMY, CREATE HUNDREDS OF JOBS WHILE PLAYING A ROLE IN THE REVITALIZATION OF NEWARK.

FOR IF NEWARK DOES NOT RECOVER PROSPERITY, THE COUNTY SIMPLY WILL NOT EITHER.

TODAY, WE ARE ALSO UNVEILING JOINT PLANS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW 2400-TO-2800-BED COUNTY JAIL WHICH WILL SAVE COUNTY TAXPAYERS APPROXIMATELY \$8.4 MILLION A YEAR.

WE WILL CLOSE DOWN THE TWO EXISTING JAILS WHICH NOW SIT, WITH THEIR SAGGING INFRASTRUCTURES, IN THE HEART OF RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES BOTH IN NEWARK AND NORTH CALDWELL.

THE NEW JAIL WILL NOT ONLY RESULT IN NET ANNUAL OPERATING SAVINGS -- EVEN AFTER FACTORING IN THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION -- BUT IT WILL ALSO BE BUILT AWAY FROM RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

AND, ITS BUILDING WILL CREATE THOUSANDS OF NEW JOBS AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES, PARTICULARLY FOR ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED WORKERS AND COMMUNITY-BASED BUSINESSES.

IN ADDITION, CONSTRUCTION OF THESE FACILITIES WILL REMOVE THE FEDERAL COURT "SWORD OF DAMOCLES" THAT HAS BEEN HANGING OVER ESSEX COUNTY TAXPAYERS FOR NEARLY A DECADE IN THE FORM OF POTENTIAL FINES CUMULATIVELY EQUALING \$297 MILLION.

EQUALLY IMPORTANT, THIS NEW, LARGER, MODERN, SAFER FACILITY WILL GUARANTEE THAT MORE DANGEROUS CRIMINALS WILL BE OFF THE STREETS AND BEHIND BARS AND THAT OUR CORRECTIONS OFFICERS WILL BE BETTER PROTECTED IN DOING THEIR DANGEROUS JOBS PROTECTING US.



IT'S ALWAYS A POSITIVE STEP FORWARD WHEN YOU CAN ANNOUNCE TWO KEY PROJECTS THAT WILL HAVE SUCH A BENEFICIAL IMPACT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

IN ADDITION TO BRINGING PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS BACK TO THE CITY, WE HAVE DEVELOPED A PLAN TO ADDRESS THE URGENT NEED FOR JAIL FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY.

THESE TWO PROJECTS ALSO MARK THE BEGINNING OF AN IMPORTANT COOPERATIVE ERA BETWEEN MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT HERE IN ESSEX.

RIVERBANK PARK IS A MULTI-PURPOSE SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL COMPLEX WHICH WILL BE LOCATED NEAR THE PASSIC RIVER IN NEWARK'S EAST WARD.

PROJECTED FUNDING SOURCES WILL HOPEFULLY INCLUDE INVESTMENT FROM THE STATE AND FROM THE CASINO REINVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AS WELL AS \$5 MILLION FROM ESSEX COUNTY, \$5 MILLION FROM THE CITY OF NEWARK, AND SIGNIFICANT REVENUES THROUGH SKY BOX SALES AND FROM ADMISSIONS.

I HAVE SPOKEN WITH GOVERNOR WHITMAN AND HER ADMINISTRATION AND THE GOVERNOR HAS LONG BEEN COMMITTED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS WHICH WILL BRING BACK OUR CITIES AND CREATE JOBS.

THE COMPLEX WILL FEATURE A BASEBALL AND SOCCER STADIUM BOTH WITH 6000 SEAT CAPACITY AND THE CAPABILITY TO EXPAND THE SOCCER STADIUM TO 12,000 SEATS, AND THE BASEBALL STADIUM TO 15,000 FOR SPECIAL EVENTS.

THE FACILITY ALSO FEATURES 20 SKY BOXES AND RESERVED AND GENERAL ADMISSION CLUB BOXES, CONCESSION STANDS, LOCKER ROOMS, PICNIC AREAS, A MUSEUM AND SOUVENIR STORE AND MODERN CLUBHOUSES.

THE BASEBALL STADIUM MEETS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION DOUBLE A STANDARDS WHILE THE SOCCER FACILITY MEETS FIFA STANDARDS.

THE COMPLEX WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR COLLEGE AND HIGH-SCHOOL SPORTING EVENTS AND RECREATIONAL SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS.

USES ALSO WILL INCLUDE CONCERTS, FESTIVALS, GRADUATION, ETHNIC CELEBRATIONS AND OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS.

THE SITE IS LOCATED WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF THE PATH, PENN STATIONS AND 2,000 OFF-STREET PARKING SPACES WITH PLANS FOR A POSSIBLE PARKING SHUTTLE INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSAL.

AS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW 900,000 SQUARE-FOOT JAIL, LET ME REPEAT THAT BOTH THE CITY AND THE COUNTY INTEND TO SAVE MONEY WHILE ALLEVIATING OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS AT THE NEWARK ADULT CENTER AND TWO COUNTY LOCK-UPS.

FOR US AT THE COUNTY LEVEL, THE PROJECT IS ANTICIPATED TO REDUCE OPERATING EXPENSES BY \$8.4 MILLION AND TO ELIMINATE THE \$297 MILLION IN POTENTIAL FINES IMPOSED BY A FEDERAL COURT YEARS AGO ON THE COUNTY.

THROUGH MUTUAL COOPERATION AND THE CONSOLIDATION OF RESOURCES BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEWARK AND THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, MAYOR JAMES AND I WERE ABLE TO DEVELOP A PLAN WHICH, EFFECTIVELY, WILL REMEDY AND SATISFY THE FEDERAL ORDERS REQUIRING THE REHABILITATION OF BOTH ESSEX COUNTY AND THE CITY OF NEWARK'S ADULT DETENTION FACILITIES.

IT ALLOWS US TO AVOID WASTING PRECIOUS TAXPAYERS DOLLARS TO PAY POTENTIALLY DEVASTATING FINES AND AS A RESULT WILL PROVIDE FOR MORE EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF OUR JAIL AND REAP THE BENEFIT OF SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS.

ONCE AGAIN, AND IN CONCLUSION, IT'S ALWAYS A GREAT DAY WHEN YOU CAN ANNOUNCE TWO KEY PROJECTS THAT WILL HAVE SUCH A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

IT IS INDEED MY PLEASURE TO MAKE THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND TO HAVE YOU JOIN WITH US TODAY. I WANT TO THANK YOU VERY MUCH.